

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6938

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROG, UN, US, CE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 204517; (B) COLOMBO 3056

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH ROBERTO DALTON, FONMINISTRY'S UN AFFAIRS CHIEF, UPON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO AS MEMBER GOA DELEGATION. DALTON HAD HIGH PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FOR U.S. EFFORT TO COVER MEETING AND FOR JAY KATZEN SPECIFICALLY.

2. DALTON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST:

A. GENERAL: MEETING WAS CHAOTIC IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATION FOR DISCUSSION AND DRAFTING. AS SOON AS AREAS OF DIFFICULTY APPEARED IN DISCUSSIONS, THEY WERE PUSHED INTO WORKING GROUPS, WHERE IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE HEARD AND TO GET AGREED TEXTS. IN FINAL SESSION, WITH POLITICAL DECLARATIONS BEING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL, ATTITUDE OF CHAIR AND OF ACTIVIST DELEGATIONS WAS TO TRY TO RUSH THINGS THROUGH BY CONSENSUS. DELEGATIONS WERE GIVEN "THREE MINUTES" TO REGISTER RESERVATIONS IN WRITING--ARGENTINES AND OTHERS WERE REDUCED TO SIMPLY SCRIBBLING NOTE THAT THEY RESERVED POSITIONS ON LIST OF ISSUES, UPON WHICH FONMINISTRY WOULD COMMENT AT LATER DATE.

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B. KOREA: IN LATIN AMERICAN EYES, NORTH KOREAN DELEGATES DAMAGED OWN POSITION BY THEIR CONDUCT AND INTRASIGENCE. DALTON FELT FEW COUNTRIES PREPARED TO STICK NECKS OUT IN OPEN OPPOSITION TO DPRK AND THUS DRAW ATTACKS UPON THEMSELVES, BUT HE FELT SUPPORT FOR DPRK POSITION IS THIN AND THAT IN SUCH BODIES AS UNGA EVEN MANY NAM MEMBERS WILL RESIST MEASURES WHICH MIGHT GO BEYOND INEFFECTIVE RESOLUTIONS.

C. PANAMA CANAL: PANAMANIAN ENERGETICALLY AND EARLY CONTACTED OTHER LA DELEGATIONS FOR SUPPORT ON THEIR POSITION, WHICH HAD INCIDENTAL EFFECT OF MAKING THEM SOMETHING OF A COORDINATOR AMONG LA'S ON OTHER QUESTIONS AS WELL. IN PRIVATE, PANAMANIAN RECOGNIZED COMPLETELY THAT LITTLE COULD BE EXPECTED FROM U.S. IN ELECTION YEAR AND THAT NAM ENDORSEMENT OF PANAMANIAN POSITION WAS PRO FORMA--BUT NEVERTHELESS NECESSARY FOR PANAMANIAN DELEGATION TO TAKE HOME WITH THEM.

D. PUERTO RICO: ARGENTINES WERE SURPRISED TO FIND CUBA "INSTANTLY" RESPONSIVE TO CONSENSUS AMONG OTHER LA DELEGATIONS THAT PUERTO RICO MATTER NOT BE PUSHED. DALTON SAID CUBANS WITHDREW THEIR OWN STRONG RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO ALMOST WITHOUT A MURMUR WHEN IT SAW IT HAD LITTLE SUPPORT AMONG LA'S.

E. GROUPS AND BLOCS: ARGENTINES FELT ALL LA'S, EVEN CUBA, CAME TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD COORDINATE AS REGIONAL BLOC. THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY SILVA OF PERU, WHO TOOK LEADERSHIP ROLE DUE TO PERU'S POSITION ON NACC AND WORKED HARD FOR "MODERATE" POSITIONS. DALTON FELT THAT PERU IS SHIFTING FROM PREVIOUS "NON-ALIGNMENT ON THE LEFT" TO "REAL NON-ALIGNMENT," WHICH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY FAVOR U.S. INTERESTS BUT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF PERU'S AND LA'S OWN INTERESTS. ALL LA'S TRIED TO CONSULT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND REACH LA POSITIONS. CUBAN SWEETNESS AND LIGHT WAS ALMOST EMBARRASSING; RAUL ROA HIMSELF MADE POINT TO CALL GREETINGS IN "HI, BUDDY" FASHION ACROSS HOTEL LOBBY TO DALTON, WHO WAS NOT EVEN HEAD OF DELEGATION. CUBANS CONSULTED WITH AND SHOWED EVERY DESIRE TO COORDINATE POSITIONS AS MUCH AS THEY COULD WITH OTHER LA'S. ARGENTINES ASSUME MUCH OF THIS WAS CUBAN EFFORT TO PREPARE GROUND FOR OWN NAM SHOW IN HAVANA IN 1979, PRESENTING THEMSELVES AS RESPONSIBLE, RATIONAL MEMBERS OF LA COMMUNITY TO OTHER LA'S. ARGENTINES CONFIDENTIAL

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FOUND MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR INCLINED TO JOIN NAM, WHILE BRAZIL WILL STAY OUT.

3. DALTON AND HIS CHIEF, RICCIARDI, OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, WHO JOINED DISCUSSION, SAID THAT ARGENTINE MEMBERSHIP IN NAM WAS MISTAKE IN FIRST PLACE, BUT WITHDRAWAL NOW WOULD ONLY MAKE "86 ENEMIES" FOR ARGENTINA. AS BONUS, BY REMAINING IN NAM, ARGENTINES OBTAINED ANOTHER EXPRESSION OF

SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN PET PROJECT,"RECOVERY" OF THE FALKLAND/
MALVINAS ISLANDS FROM THE UK.
CHAPLIN

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